

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 85
JUNE



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

REVEALED
AT LAST...
THE
SCHEMER'S
SECRET!

NOTHING
CAN SAVE
YOU NOW!



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SCHEMER'S
SECRET?

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

LAST ISSUE, WE SAW THE MYSTERIOUS SCHEMER BROKE IN... AND THE FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE KINGPIN... AND WITH THE KINGPIN'S WIFE...

THEN, SPIDER-MAN BROKE IN... AND THE ACTION REALLY BEGAN...

BUT, SUDDENLY REALIZING THAT THE SCHEMER HAD ESCAPED... AND THAT HIS OWN WIFE WAS GONE... THE KINGPIN WENT MAD...

HE'S GONE! I'M NO BETTER OFF THAN I WAS BEFORE!

YOU!

I'VE GOT YOU... AT LAST!

THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE I CAN'T FIND THEM!

WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT?

AND NOW... **THE SECRET OF THE SCHEMER!**

IT'S SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT! MY HATRED FOR HIM MADE ME FORGET THE SCHEMER!

BUT IF HE HARMS ONE HAIR OF VANESSA'S HEAD...

WAIT! THERE IS NO NEED FOR RAGE.

YOUR WIFE IS SAFE, MY DEAR!

SCRIPT BY STAN LEE
ART BY J. ROMITA, J. BUSCEMA and MADMAN MOONEY
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

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VANESSA!
BUT... I
THOUGHT
HE HAD
TAKEN YOU
WITH HIM!

IT WAS NOT
SO, MY LOVE!



FINDING THE SCENE
DISTASTEFUL, I MERELY
HID WITHIN THE SHADOWS!

I SHOULD
HAVE
GUESSED!



NO ONE WOULD DARE TO
THREATEN THE KINGPIN'S
WIFE!

AND LEAST OF ALL, THAT
SCRAWNY SCHEMER!

LEAST
OF ALL
...THE
SCHEMER!

AND, SPEAKING OF THE MYSTERIOUS
SCHEMER, WHO FRANTICALLY SPEEDS
THRU THE SNOW-COVERED STREETS...

IT WAS THE SIGHT
OF HER THAT
STOPPED ME...
FROM CARRYING
OUT MY PLAN!

THE WAY SHE
LOOKED AT
ME... AS IF...
SHE KNEW!



WHEN I SAW... THE SADNESS IN HER EYES...
AND I REMEMBERED THE PAST... I HAD TO
ESCAPE BEFORE THE KINGPIN COULD
SUSPECT!



SO LONG AS SHE
WAS THERE, I
COULDN'T RISK...

THAT TRUCK...
ROUNDING THE
CORNER! I
DIDN'T SEE IT
COMING!



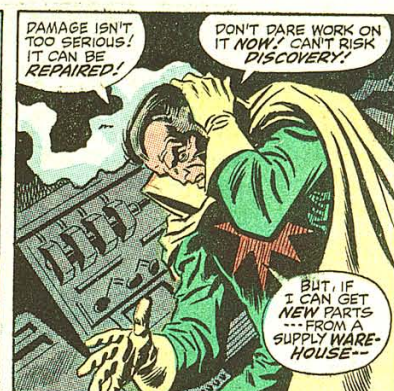
FLOUNDING!

SKREEEEEEEE!



MISSED IT...
BY A MATTER
OF INCHES!

ANOTHER FEW SECONDS...
WOULD HAVE BEEN... TOO
LATE!



DAMAGE ISN'T
TOO SERIOUS!
IT CAN BE
REPAIRED!

DON'T DARE WORK ON
IT NOW! CAN'T RISK
DISCOVERY!

BUT, IF
I CAN GET
NEW PARTS
...FROM A
SUPPLY WARE-
HOUSE...

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SNOW-
BOUND CITY, A BROODING YOUTH FINDS IT
DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS STUDIES...

GWENDY'S BIRTHDAY IS
ALMOST HERE... AND I'M
AS BROKE AS EVER!

IF ONLY I'D BEEN
ABLE TO NAB
THE SCHEMER...
AND CLAIM THAT
REWARD!



RINNNNG

THE POOR-
BELL! VISITORS
...THAT'S ALL
I NEED!

CAPTAIN STACY! GWEN! I-- I DIDN'T EXPECT...

WE WERE JUST PASSING BY, SON! I
HOPE WE'RE
NOT IN-
TRUDING!

DAD HAS SOME-
THING TO ASK
YOU, PETER!



YOU MAKE
IT SOUND TOO
DRAMATIC,
MY DEAR!

IT'S ABOUT
SPIDER-MAN!
IT MUST BE!
HOW MUCH DOES
HE SUSPECT?

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED
HOW YOU MANAGED TO BE
SO SUCCESSFUL AS A
NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER!



OH, I
GUESS I'VE
JUST BEEN...
KINDA
LUCKY!

I FEEL
IT'S MORE
THAN LUCK!

NO ONE BUT YOU HAS
EVER MANAGED TO GET
SUCH CANDID PHOTOS
OF SPIDER-MAN IN
ACTION!

YOU'VE ALWAYS
SEEMED TO BE IN
THE RIGHT PLACE...
AT THE RIGHT TIME!



CAN YOU
HONESTLY SAY
THAT IT'S JUST
...COINCIDENCE?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

JIM DRISCOLL IN The Race to Danger



JIM AND BOBBY VISIT THE "PITS" AT THE SPRINGFIELD RACE TRACK.

THE JUDGES SAY WE CAN'T RACE OUR RADIO-CONTROLLED CAR WITH-OUT A DRIVER.

NO TIME TO FIND A DRIVER. THE RACE STARTS IN 3 MINUTES.

HOW ABOUT ONE OF THESE BOYS?

YEAH THE OLDEST ONE. THE FELLOW WEARING THE LEES.

ME? SURE, I'LL DO IT.

YOU JUST SIT HERE IN THE CAR. WE'LL DRIVE IT AND STEER IT BY REMOTE CONTROL.

ON THE 10TH LAP - TROUBLE!!

JIM, JIM, WE'RE LOSING CONTROL. YOU'LL HAVE TO REALLY DRIVE!

I'VE NEVER DRIVEN A REAL CAR. BUT I KNOW A FEW TRICKS FROM MY MODEL CAR RACING.

THE WINNER! JIM DRISCOLL.

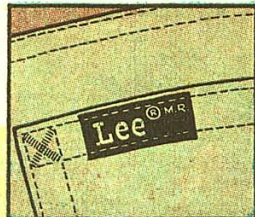
THEY THOUGHT YOU'RE OLDER THAN I AM, JIM, BUT WE'RE THE SAME AGE.

YOU STILL WEAR KID CLOTHES, BOB.

I'M WEARING LEE LEENS LIKE THE HIGH SCHOOL GUYS.

BOYS! ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH TO WEAR LEES? HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH GUYS WEAR LEE LEENS - HOW ABOUT YOU? IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF KIDDY CLOTHES AND GET INTO LEE LEENS. THEY'RE TOUGH! THEY'RE TIGHT!

LEE Leens:
the grown-up pants



H. D. Lee Company, Inc., Dept. A, P. O. Box 440, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201. ALSO AVAILABLE IN CANADA.

I KNEW IT! HE'S TOO SHARP! GETTING TOO CLOSE! I NEED TIME TO THINK!

HOLY SMOKE! I JUST REMEMBERED! I'VE GOT SOME PIX DEVELOPING IN THE DARKROOM!

DON'T LET US SPOIL THE PRINTS! WE'LL WAIT, M'BOY!

JUST SO LONG AS THEY'RE NOT SHOTS OF ANY OTHER CHICKS!

WHEW! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!

OKAY... SO I GAINED A LITTLE TIME! BUT NOW WHAT DO I DO?

HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING DRASTIC... TO THROW HIM OFF THE TRAIL... ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AND... SINCE IT WAS SPIDER-MAN WHO GOT ME INTO THIS JAM...

LET'S SEE IF THE WEB-SPINNER HIMSELF WILL BE ABLE TO GET ME OUT!

IT'S A REAL LONG SHOT... BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT... IF IT WORKS!

IT'S A GOOD THING MY VOICE SOUNDS MUFFLED... AND DIFFERENT... THRU MY MASK.

DAD, I STILL THINK YOU'RE 'WAY OFF-BASE ABOUT PETER! I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR... OH!

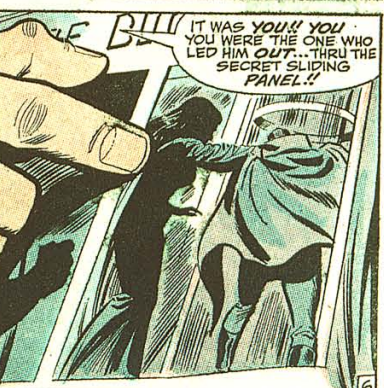
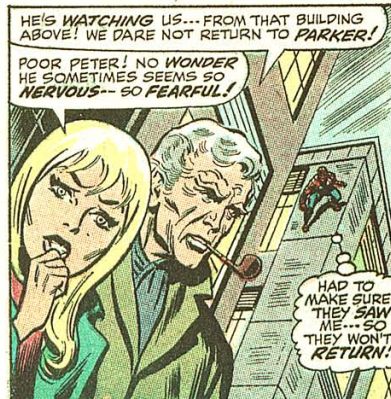
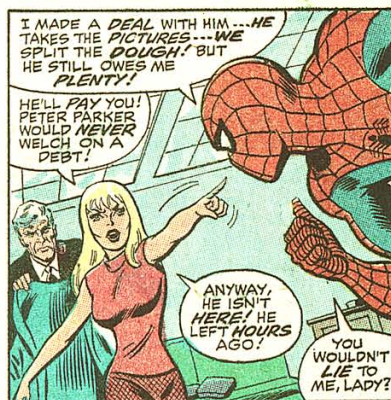
WHAT'S THAT, HONEY? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THERE'S SOMEONE... AT THE WINDOW!

SPIDER-MAN!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MISTER! THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL!

PARKER'S THE ONE I WANT!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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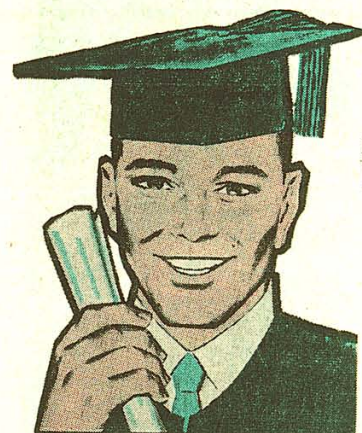
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Not to mention WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #3 — MY LOVE #5 — RINGO KID #3 — HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #4 — and PETEY #4. Which we won't, of course.

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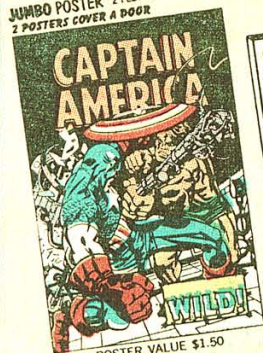
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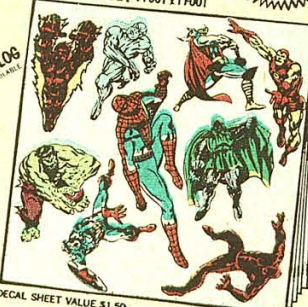


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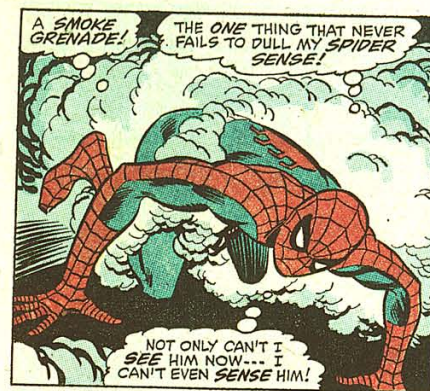
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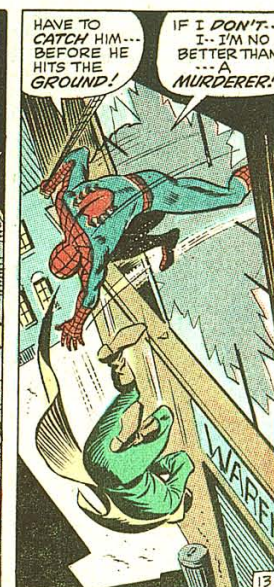
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**MOVING FASTER... MORE DESPERATELY...
THAN EVER BEFORE, THE FRANTIC YOUTH
HURLS HIMSELF INTO SPACE... AND THEN...**

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man in a green suit, celebrating with his arms raised and a wide grin. A speech bubble above him says "MADE IT!". The background shows a city street with a car and a building.

NOW... I'LL CLAIM
THE **REWARD**
BEFORE ANYTHING
ELSE GOES
WRONG!



THIS IS THE ADDRESS ON THE REWARD POSTER!

WAIT! YOU...
YOU CAN'T
TAKE ME
THERE!



WE'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU! TAKE HIM
INSIDE!

WAITING? BUT... HOW
DID THEY *KNOW*?



YOU
FOOL!
YOU DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING!

**KEEP HIM
HERE...
TILL THE
CHIEF
COMES!**

WHAT KIND OF PRECINCT IS THIS? WHY THE *HIGH FLOOR...* THE APARTMENT-TYPE *FURNISHINGS*?

S'MATTER? YOU WANT US TO **REDECORATE** IT FOR YOU?



HE WAS DRESSED LIKE A COP...
LOOKED LIKE A COP... BUT SOME
THING'S WRONG! I CAN FEEL IT!

WHERE COULD I
HAVE **SLIPPED**
UP? WHAT HAVE
I GOTTEN MYSELF
INTO?



**STEEL PANELS...
SLIDING DOWN!!
COVERING THE
DOORS AND
WINDOWS!!**



**SURPRISED, GENTLEMEN?
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE!**

THAT
VOICE! YOU
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN! YOU
SHOULD HAVE
SUSPECTED!



AFTER ALL, WHO
WOULD BE MORE
ANXIOUS TO PAY
A REWARD FOR
THE SCHEMER
THAN... THE
KINGPIN?



AND, NOW THAT YOU HAVE
STUPIDLY *DELIVERED* HIM..
YOU SHALL *RECEIVE* YOUR
REWARD---

**BUT IT WILL BE
SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT
THAN YOU MAY
HAVE EXPECTED!**



THERE'S NO NEED TO
EXPLAIN IT TO ME, Y
WITLESS FOOL!

CLICK!



... JUST AS I AM
AWARE THAT YOU
WILL **NEVER** ESCAPE
ME AGAIN!

A STEEL-
CABLE NET
DROPPING
FROM THE
CEILING:



I'M WELL
AWARE OF
EVERY
BRILLIANT
FACET OF
MY LITTLE
PLAN---

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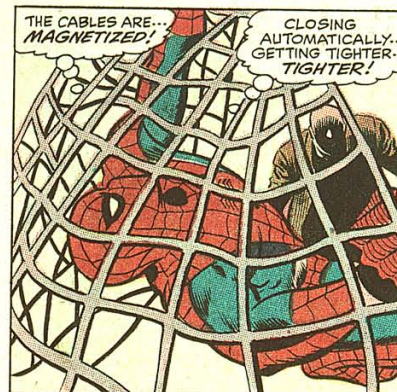
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WHAT IS THERE BETWEEN YOU... AND MY WIFE??!

TALK, I SAY... BEFORE I...

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT! I'LL TELL YOU! YOU HAVE TO FIND OUT... SOONER OR LATER!

IT ALL BEGINS AT A SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND... HIGH ATOP THE ALPS! THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN... A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MAN...

HE WAS HAPPY... CARE FREE... WITHOUT A WORRY IN THE WORLD!

16

"HE STUDIED HARD... BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE SOMETHING OF HIMSELF... TO MAKE HIS PARENTS PROUD OF HIM!"



"HE DEVELOPED HIS MIND... HIS BODY... HOPING THAT SOME DAY HE COULD BE THE MAN HIS FATHER WAS!"

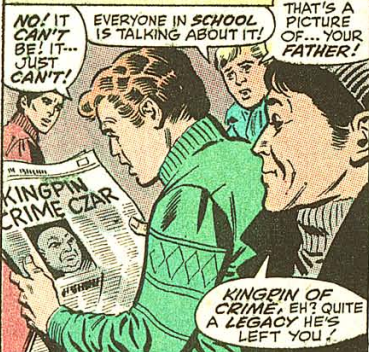


"HE NEVER TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT HIS FATHER... OF TELLING HOW SUCCESSFUL, HOW RESPECTED, HOW HONORABLE HE WAS..."



"NO BOY HAD EVER LOVED A FATHER... MORE THAN HE!"

"BUT THEN, ONE DAY... HIS IDOL CRUMBLLED... HIS WORLD COLLAPSED..."



"NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT... JUST CAN'T!"

EVERYONE IN SCHOOL IS TALKING ABOUT IT!

THAT'S A PICTURE OF... YOUR FATHER!

KINGPIN OF CRIME, EH? QUITE A LEGACY HE'S LEFT YOU!

"HOURS LATER... DESPONDENT, DAZED, AND SICK AT HEART... HE RODE A SKI LIFT... BY HIMSELF..."



"--AND WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN!"



IT'S HOPELESS! WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR DAYS!

EVEN IF WE WERE TO FIND HIM NOW... IN THE FREEZING COLD... WITHOUT ANY FOOD... IT WOULD BE TOO LATE!

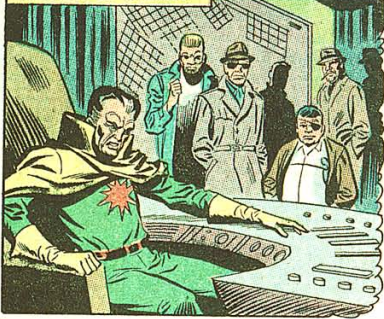
"AND SO, THE WORLD BELIEVED THAT HE HAD PERISHED IN THE ALPS! WHICH WAS THE WAY HE PLANNED IT! FOR RICHARD HAD TO DIE... IN ORDER FOR THE SCHEMER TO LIVE!"



"THANKS TO THE MONEY WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN HIM... HE COULD DO WHAT HE WISHED... BUY WHAT HE NEEDED..."



"...AND HIRE THOSE WHO WOULD ONE DAY ATTACK THE KINGPIN... WHO WOULD HELP HIM DETHRONE THE ABOMINABLE MASTER OF CRIME!"



YOU DOG! YOU'RE NOT FIT TO MENTION MY SON'S NAME!



HOW DID YOU LEARN OF THIS? HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT RICHARD? ANSWER ME... WHILE YOU CAN!!



ARE YOU SO BLIND... SO OBSESSED WITH YOUR OWN MAD HATRED... THAT YOU STILL DON'T KNOW?

CAN'T YOU SEE? HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED?

ALL THOSE YEARS... WHILE RICHARD LIVED ON THE MONEY YOU MADE FROM CRIME...



THOSE YEARS HAD TO BE PAID FOR! THERE HAD TO BE AN ACCOUNTING! AND, WHAT COULD BE MORE FITTING... WHAT COULD BE MORE JUST...



... THAN THAT I... YOUR OWN SON... BE THE ONE TO END THE KINGPIN'S CAREER?!"



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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**YOU'RE
NOT DEAD!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
ALIVE!**

BUT... YOU'RE MORE
LOST TO ME NOW...
THAN EVER BEFORE!!

I SEE IT IN YOUR
EYES... HEAR IT
IN YOUR VOICE...
KNOW IT BY YOUR
DEEDS!!

**YOU HATE
ME! HATE
ME!
HATE
ME!**

NO! MAY
HEAVEN
FORGIVE
ME... I
LOVE
YOU...

... EVEN WHILE I
WISH... WITH EVERY
FIBRE OF MY BEING...
THAT YOU WERE
NOT MY FATHER!

RICHARD!!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
I KNEW IT! MY
HEART TOLD ME
... IT WAS YOU!

BUT... YOUR
FATHER!
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE
TO HIM?

I DON'T KNOW! HE SEEMS
TO BE... IN A STATE OF
SHOCK!



HIS EYES
ARE OPEN...
BUT HE STARES
AHEAD... WITHOUT
SEEING... WITH-
OUT MOVING!

IT'S AS THOUGH...
HIS ENTIRE BODY...
HAS BECOME AN
EMPTY SHELL!

I THOUGHT... I WANTED HIM
TO PAY... FOR MY OWN HURT...
AND DISILLUSIONMENT...

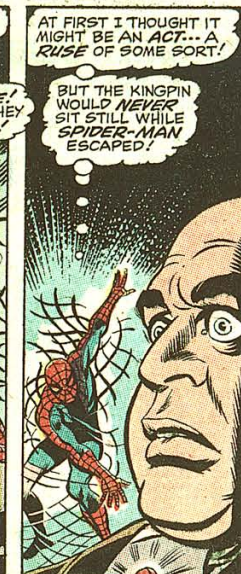
IF EVER I'M TO
BREAK FREE... IT
HAS TO BE NOW!
NOW!

BUT...
NOT LIKE
THIS!
NOT LIKE
THIS!



I'LL NEED EVERY OUNCE OF
SPIDER STRENGTH... I
POSSESS IT BUT... IF I
FLEX HARD ENOUGH...
AND CAN BEAR... THE
PAIN... I'LL...

THERE!
I DID IT! THEY
SNAPPED!



AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE AN ACT... A
RUSE OF SOME SORT!

BUT THE KINGPIN
WOULD NEVER
SIT STILL WHILE
SPIDER-MAN
ESCAPED!



HE IS IN A STATE OF **SHOCK!**
AND EVEN IF HE SHOULD COME
OUT OF IT... WHAT WILL BE
LEFT TO HIM?

WHAT PUNISHMENT CAN
ANYONE METE OUT WHICH
CAN COMPARE TO WHAT THEY'VE
ALL BEEN THROUGH?



MAYBE OUR PATHS WILL
CROSS AGAIN... MAYBE
THEY WON'T...



SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T
SEEM TO MATTER
ANYMORE!

NEXT
**BEWARE
THE
BLACK WIDOW!**

MINI-BULLETINS TO SKIM, SCAN, AND SAVOR!

ITEM! CAPTAIN MARVEL lives again — with the same great team of THOMAS, KANE, and ADKINS that knocked you for a loop a few months ago! Who says mighty Marvel doesn't listen to the fans?

ITEM! Now it can be told! The name of the mag which BARRY SMITH is drawing is — CONAN THE BARBARIAN! Watch for it! Who says mighty Marvel isn't on the move again?

ITEM! This you've gotta see — our own STAN LEE and JIM STER-ANKO have teamed up to produce the zingiest romance strip of all time in the current OUR LOVE STORY #5. Who says mighty Marvel doesn't do the unexpected?

ITEM! Those two new titles we told you about last ish will be —

AMAZING ADVENTURES and ASTONISHING TALES. Each will feature TWO complete epics, and if you guess the INHUMANS, KAZAR, the BLACK WIDOW, and DR. DOOM, you won't be far wrong! They'll be on sale early in May! Who says mighty Marvel doesn't keep its promises?

ITEM! Didja hear about STAN THE MAN rapping for hours with JOE McDONALD, BARRY MELTON, and their manager ED DENSON? Or maybe you know them better as COUNTRY JOE AND THE FISH! Anyway, don't be too surprised to hear of a Marvel rock album on sale one of these days! (If Irving Forbush could only sing!) Who says mighty Marvel's not taking over the whole funky world?

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, team — this time we'll pull a switcheroo. Instead of ME doing the yakk'n', I'm gonna listen to YOU! Here's your chance to gather up your gripes and sock 'em to us! Don't pull your punches — just think of it as therapy for both of us! We'll announce the results of this swingin' little survey as soon as all the votes are in. Don't cop out, hear? If nothing else, think how this'll impress our mailman!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THESE ARE MARVEL'S BEST:

PENCILLERS: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

INKERS: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

HEY, MAN, THESE ARE MY FAVORITE TYPES OF PLOTS:

THESE ARE THE KIND OF YARNS THAT TURN ME OFF:

WOW! THESE ARE THE TYPE OF MAGS YOU SHOULD DO MORE OF:

IF I WERE YOU, STAN (UGH!), THESE ARE THE CHANGES I'D MAKE AT MARVEL:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Okay, pencil-pusher, time's up! Clip this out and send it to STAN LEE'S LITTLE SURVEY, 635 Madison Ave., N.Y.C., 10022. Thanks a heap, hero — and consider yourself no-prized!



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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Roy,

I feel moved to comment on the quickening pace of your recent Marvel masterworks. It would appear that every magazine graced by the pen of Mr. Thomas immediately moves through great changes in its characters, changes of permanent import. Namor loses his wings and gills, Daredevil reveals his secret identity to Karen, Dr. Strange acquires a new identity, Hank Pym marries Janet Van Dyne, the Avengers' line-up changes like a kaleidoscope, Capt. Marvel and Rick Jones find themselves, etc. In the midst of all this turmoil, the grand master, Mr. Lee, has been deluged by great but transient stories—stories that thrill, but do not develop. Only SPIDER-MAN moves on, but whither?

By the time this letter reaches you, the answer may already be fixed, but I feel that two things need to be said. Your shorter stories I applaud if they mean smaller panels or shorter fight sequences, but not if it means end to the sub-plots which make Marvel what it is. I see these beings submerged in the Avengers as its old lineup is brought back on a regular basis (it seems) to boost circulation. The other point is SPIDER-MAN. Let's not have Gwen Stacy go the way of Betty Brant. It's reasonable that Peter should have misconstrued Gwen's talk with Flash and that he should have gotten mad at her. It is not reasonable that Gwen would let the incident go at that, and that Peter would adjust so easily to the loss. When Peter kissed off Betty Brant, he did it knowing she hated Spider-Man, knowing (not guessing) she had another beau, and knowing she was a bit neurotic. None of this applies to Gwen. I can see it evolving this way—Flash Thompson starts prying into Peter's affairs to get in formation for Gwen. Being Flash, he shows his hand, and Peter learns the truth. Being Peter, he figures out a cover story and rejoins Gwen perhaps even disclosing his identity, a la Daredevil.

Sorry this letter is so long and diffuse. Keep up the good work.
John Hall, 4006 Pine Street
Phila., Pa. 19104

Our crystal ball is a bit iced up at the moment, John, but maybe after the spring thaw we'll let you know if things will be warming up for Pete and Gwen. Oh yeah—the Rascally One sure looks cute when he blushes...

Dear Stan,

SPIDER-MAN #80 was great as it always should be, but on page 2, panel 5, when Pete was about to hit Flash, he should have hit it's not that I don't like Flash, but I'm getting pretty tired of Pete backing out every time he gets ready to show what a man he is. And another thing, I've never seen Pete kiss Gwen. I know this isn't the Lonely Hearts Club, but come on, he's supposed to be going with the girl, they've got to have some romance in their lives. I've seen ants do more in the romance bit. I hope I've made my point!

James Haynesworth, 1431 S Street S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

As a matter of fact, Jim, in the very same issue you mention, Pete and Gwen do kiss (although we do cheat just a bit on the moment of impact!) In an attempt to produce a superhero comic we've omitted those things you can find in abundance in OUR LOVE STORY and MY LOVE. And anyway, we're firm believers

in that old adage, it's "quality, not quantity" that counts. We think those infrequent romantic moments are worth waiting for. As far as Pete proving what a man he is, we think it's most important to prove something like that to yourself, first and foremost. And Pete certainly knows his own strength!

Dear Stan, Jim, John, and Sam,

How many times am I gonna have to tell you that Marvel is realism? How long is it gonna take to get through to you to tell these fine feathered fans who won't shut up and insist on forever harping on the subject of Pete's problems that if they'd quiet down for a minute and look at their own lives, maybe they could manage to understand the Marvel theory of realistic emotions and art combined with the fantasy of a superhero. Listen, all you Pete-defamers—you sometimes have problems, don'tcha? Sometimes you feel sorry for yourself for days at a time, and your whole world seems to collapse, doesn't it? If it doesn't, I'd sure like to have your secret on how to live a perfect life! On the other hand, sometimes everything seems perfect and you feel as if nothing in the world can hurt you. That's life, man! And that's what Marvel does. They try their best to portray the realities of life, along with a believable superhero. I guess you could say that even a guy with Spider's powers has real-life problems. After all, the poor guy's only super-human...

Eric Shratter, 2112 Mytheewood Dr.
Huntsville, Ala. 35803

We thank you for coming to our defense, Eric. It's difficult for us to imagine a person leading a problem-free life... but if such a guy really exists, send him on over to us—we'll make a real superhero out of him!



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P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan, John, and Jim,

Panning time again—I guess you're used to it by now. First of all, ish #81 was somewhat of a let-down. The art looked as if the pencil point was jagged and the pen kept running out of ink and had a broken point. The story was one of your better ones, though, even if the somewhat scratchy art spoiled it a bit. Anyway, the Kangaroo is a good, original character. It's about time you got away from all those mutants and came back to a trained-to-be-superhuman type guy.

And now for the letters section. I agree with Gerald Palma in that I think you should try getting back to those smaller panels with a lot of dialogue. How come whenever you use a lot of space and fewer panels, the dialogue diminishes to one or two small word balloons with large lettering? And about the question of Pete getting drafted, well... the answer seems so painfully obvious, I almost hesitate to say it... so I'll type it down on paper. Pete's got a college deferment! Even though he hasn't been on campus in a while, he's still got a scholarship, and people on academic scholarships usually don't get drafted unless their grades get real low. And as for Perry Wolf's letter, the only point I think I'll comment on is #5, in which he says that Flash is due to come out of the army. Unless they've changed the term of service while I blinked my eye a minute ago, Flash still has more than 18 months left. I counted the Marvel time that has elapsed since Fearless Flash decided to honor his draft card, and by actual day-count, it comes to about 32 or 33 days. Now then, counting for weekends and uneventful nights not shown, I'll up the time to two months or maybe even three. So I believe our stubborn soldier is gonna be around for quite some time.

And one more thing—would you change gorgeous Gwendolyn back into the smart and sophisticated beauty queen she once was? For some unknown reason you've transformed her into a common, everyday teeny-bopper. Well, anyway as long as my wallet can stand the strain, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Eric Shratter, 2112 Mytheewood
Huntsville, Ala. 35803

Yipes! You've said a mouthful, Eric. While we're collecting our thoughts, we'd like to reply that considering the fact that Pete isn't a debonaire playboy, it certainly wouldn't do for Gwen to be a sophisticated beauty queen. We've got to keep them in the same league, y'know.

As far as Pete's draft status goes, we'll let you know his lottery number as soon as we can dig up his birth certificate...

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #80 urged me to write my first letter to you. Life appeared to improve this ish for Pete, in that he got Gwen back and finally told J.J.J. off in public. The Chameleon has long been my favorite SPIDER-MAN villain, and I was overjoyed to see him return. Looking back through my old SPIDER-MAN #1, I found that the Chameleon first appeared in SPIDER-MAN #1, not #2. Do I receive a No-Prize for my searchings? I'm glad you didn't reveal the Chameleons' identity at the end because it implies he will return someday. So—till Peter Parker gets drafted, I'll be a loyal fan.

Thomas Czoplicki, 1404 Chestnut
Wyandotte, Mich. 48192

There comes a time (at least once) in every man's life when he forgets an issue number, and when there's eighty-odd to choose from, it's only understandable. So pardon our collective memory (no one caught it here), and may the U.S. Post Office deliver your No-Prize with great speed!

Dear Stan,

In view of occurrences in other Marvel mags, we're all waiting with bated breath for the moment when Peter Parker discloses his secret identity to Gwendolyn. Let's be realistic, guys, he just can't go on forever like this. In Spider-Man #80, you seem to have temporarily got him back in good graces with Gwen, but you have dropped another due to his secret. Someday it seems likely that somebody is going to patch together all the insignificant little hints, and discover that Spidey really is Peter Parker. Who knows, it might even be Gwen.

The one thing that really makes Spiderman your best character is that he is the most fully and realistically developed of them all. We can see his home life, good ol' Aunt May, his friends, his trials and tribulations with J.J.J., and his life at school. The only part of the picture that needs work is his relationship with Gwen. Just for once couldn't the girl our hero loves turn out to be a girl who can understand and accept the way he is and the danger that he must constantly be in, and still love him. This is no different from the situation that many wives of early American explorers and frontiersmen found themselves in, and they still loved their husbands and stood by them. Don't tell me that this kind of girl no longer exists.

Maybe this is asking too much, but if Spidey is to remain the greatest Marvel character ever, his relationship with Gwen has got to be straightened out somehow. Don't let us down, guys.

Bill Moas
Bill Kurtz
564 Mayfield Ave.
Stanford, Calif.
94305

It does seem, guys, that most everyone in Marveldom is particularly concerned about Pete and Gwen, as this letters' page seems to indicate. Of course, Pete and Gwen are just a little too young to really commit themselves at this point, but we stopped worrying long ago. In most cases, when nature is left to take its course, things always seem to work out just fine!



Dear Stan, John, etc.,

I was sitting in the doctor's office, when I picked up the October 24th issue of LIFE magazine and began thumbing through it—WALLOPIN' WEBSNAPPERS!! There was a feature on a new kind of gun used by police that shoots out a nylon fishnet and can collar a crook ten paces ahead of a pursuing patrolman. The weapon's name??? If you haven't guessed by now, it's SPIDER!! The fellow who dreamed up the thing must be a die-hard Spideophile. Just thought I'd mention it.

Karl Ackerman, 3 Harbor Ct.
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764

Thanks, Kurt—it's exciting to know that Spidey's fame has reached far beyond the hallowed halls of Marveldom, into the realm of honest-to-goodness crime fighting. And most pleasing of all is the fact that the device delights rather than harms, reaffirming the solid American percept that a man is innocent until proven guilty.

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